

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 825
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to honor Coach James Douglas Sharp on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it was with deep admiration and regret that we learned that one of Tennessee's greatest high school coaches, James Douglas Sharp, the highly regarded Scott High School girls' basketball coach, has decided to retire; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sharp began his illustrious coaching career in 1968 at Huntsville High School, where he expertly coached football and boys' basketball; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sharp moved to Erwin in 1970, and coached eighth grade football and seventh grade basketball at Evans Elementary School, where he built a solid reputation for making his team members winners on the athletic field and providing excellent training for life; and

WHEREAS, this highly respected coach next coached high school football at Central High School in Wartburg, for two glorious seasons; and

WHEREAS, from 1972-1980, Coach Sharp coached girls' basketball and football at Sunbright in Morgan County; and

WHEREAS, under his superb leadership, the football teams defeated Wartburg for the first time in 19 years and Oneida for the first time in 27 years, with one of those teams compiling an admirable 8-3 record; and

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WHEREAS, in six years, the Sunbright girls' basketball teams won 137 games, while losing only 34; they were district runners-up five times and finished in third place one year; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1981, Coach Sharp coached at Burchfield Elementary School, and under his dynamic tutelage the boys' basketball team were county champions twice, while the girls' teams were county champions three times; and

WHEREAS, since 1990, he has coached the Scott High School girls' basketball team and has been widely praised for his exemplary efforts; and

WHEREAS, his Scott High School teams have won the coveted district title five times, been district runners-up three times and finished second in the regional tournament two times; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sharp is the first coach in Scott High School history to win the girls' basketball district tournament; and

WHEREAS, he is also the first coach in Scott High School history to take the girls' basketball team to the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association substate level; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sharp is very appreciate of the strong support he has received from his family, wife Linda, daughter, Delenia and son, Jackson; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to salute the life and numerous accomplishments of Coach James Douglas Sharp; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Coach James Douglas Sharp, reflecting fondly on his great coaching career and his many significant contributions to high school sports. We wish him much continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.